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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,780	08/19/2003	Lloyd Randall Anderson	047982/268782	4113

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EXAMINER

CEGIELNIK, URSZULA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/643,780	Applicant(s) ANDERSON, LLOYD RANDALL	
	Examiner Urszula M Cegielnik	Art Unit 3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/06/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

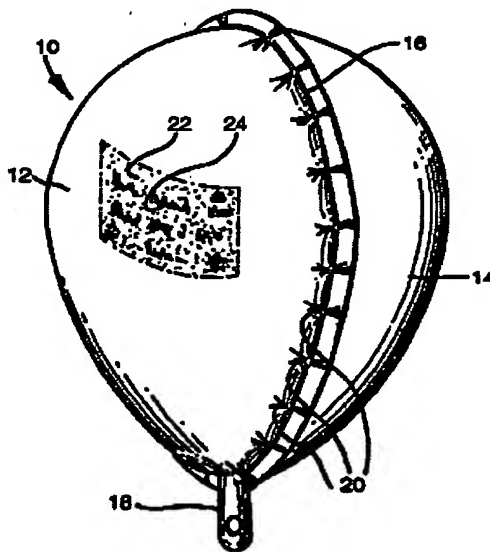
DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Garcia.



Lang discloses an apparatus comprising a flexible material (10) having low permeability to a lighter than air gas, the flexible material (10) defining a chamber (the interior portion of reference numeral 10); at least one structured member (16) coupled to

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the flexible material (10) such that when the chamber is filled with the gas to a known level, the apparatus is substantially neutrally buoyant under ambient conditions.

Lang does not disclose a valve to seal the chamber.

Garcia discloses an inflatable device having a valve (10).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a valve as taught by Garcia, since such a modification would permit regulation of gas into the chamber.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Barnes, III.

Lang, as modified by Garcia, lacks a sleeve coupled to the flexible material to retain the at least one structured member; the sleeve is heat welded to the flexible material, and the sleeve and the flexible material are a same material.

Barnes, III. discloses a sleeve coupled to a flexible material to retain at least one structural member, the sleeve and the flexible material are a same material.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to provide a sleeve coupled to the flexible material as taught by Barnes, III, since such a modification would secure the structural member to the inflatable device.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 28 June 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the heat weld of the Mylar balloon of Lang is not a structural member. The examiner submits that Lang indeed teaches a structural member. Reference part 16 is defined by Lang as a welded *joint* (col. 6, line 28). A joint is clearly a type of structural member.

In response to applicant's argument that Barnes fails to teach an apparatus as substantially neutrally buoyant under ambient conditions, the examiner submits that the apparatus of Barnes is clearly neutrally buoyant under ambient conditions as Barnes states at col. 7, lines 64-65 that the apparatus supports, protects and maintains the aerodynamic profile of an airship as it encounters aerodynamic stresses. The aerodynamic stresses are the ambient conditions of the apparatus when it is in flight.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Barnes is relied on as teaching a frame structure for an inflatable device, not as an airship designed for motorized human transport as alleged by Applicant.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

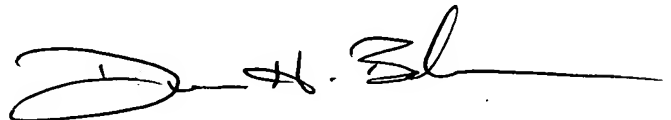
§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Urszula M. Cegielnik whose telephone number is 703-306-5806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 5:45AM - 2:15PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris H. Banks can be reached on 703-308-1745. **The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 for both regular and After Final communications.**

Urszula M. Cegielnik
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 3712



DERRIS H. BANKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700